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Robert B. Applebee Collection

Inclusive dates 1820-1871
Bulk dates: 1822-1837

by
Anastasia S. Weigle
February 2012

Shelf feet: .25
Number of boxes: 1
Accession 65.0674, 66.1462, 66.1461, 66.1621

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Abstract

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Applebee, Robert Bruce, (b.1885-d.1979), *Collector*

Robert B. Applebee Collection, 1820-1871 (Bulk dates: 1822-1837)

1 Box (.25 shelf feet)

U. S. Customs Service employee and resident of Searsport, ME.

Various Maine maritime Customs Service documents including shipping articles, crew lists, enrollments, registers, licenses, clearance papers, and manifests.

Donated by Robert B. Applebee between 1965-66

MS-007. Accession Nos. 65.0674, 66.1461, 66.1462, 66.1621

Related material available at repository: MS-26 Bath Customs House Records

Finding aid available in repository; folder level control.

Added entries—personal names

Applebee, Robert B.

Added entries—key terms

Certificates [not LC]

Crew lists [not LC]

Customs service [not LC]

Declarations, Customs

Manifests [not LC]

Ship registers

Customs administration

Acquisition

The Robert B. Applebee Collection was donated by the compiler/collector and thus, named after him. The collection came in three separate accessions: 66.0674 (March 31, 1966), 66.1461 and 66.1462 (April 16, 1966) and 66.1621 (July 6, 1966).

Provenance

Mr. Robert B. Applebee and his relationship with the Maine Maritime Museum are not documented other than in anecdotal stories. He spent time at the museum offering his knowledge in maritime history. A respected maritime historian, Mr. Applebee compiled a number of works on Maine maritime history. He was the Historian at the Penobscot Marine Museum for many years and his wife, after his death in 1979, donated his extensive collection of maritime records of similar, but much broader content on Custom Services. His donation to the Maine Maritime Museum is a small example of the much larger collection at the Penobscot Marine Museum and his connections with the U. S. Customs Service may explain how he came upon these documents. Mr. Applebee's donations came in three separate accessions between 1965 and 1966.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the study use of these materials.

Physical Condition

The papers in this collection are soiled and/or dog-eared. There are a few stains and minor tears on the edges. These can be easily repaired with thin, transparent document repair tape. A few documents have strong crease lines that require flattening with a tacking iron at low to medium heat. Some of the larger documents have separated on the fold lines. Papers with the most extensive damaged (i.e. split in half due to excessive crease) should be repaired using very thin and transparent Japanese mending papers and wheat paste.

Biographical Notes

Robert Bruce Applebee (b. 1885-d. 1979). Robert B. Applebee was born on February 8, 1885 in Cambridge, Queens, New Brunswick, Canada. He was the son of Judson Applebee and Sarah Elizabeth Lougee. Robert Applebee immigrated to the United States with his parents, settling in Maine in 1903 at the age of 18. He served in World War I and spent most of his working life with the U. S. Customs Service. Before his retirement in 1950, he was in charge of the Washington, D.C. office.

He married Blanche Wright on September 23, 1904 in Caribou, Maine and had two daughters, Natalie (1913) and Marjory (1909). He later divorced and married Amy Ernestine Graham, a registered nurse from Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts on June 24, 1938.

Mr. Applebee's work with the U.S. Customs led to his lifelong interest in ships and shipping. He collected various records on maritime matters and was known for his outstanding private library dealing with this field of interest. He was recognized as an authority on maritime history and shared his knowledge of the subject to the world community. Many researchers interested in Maine history visited Mr. Applebee in his home. He died May 15, 1979 at the age of 94.

Historical Notes

The United States Customs Service was originally responsible for the collection of duties on imported goods, the registering and licensing of American vessels, the enforcement of all maritime and navigation laws, and the management of regulations governing the entry and clearance of seamen and passengers. While these functions remained, responsibilities were expanded and became more specialized during the nineteenth century. After 1793, regulatory forms for exports as well as imports were required. Between 1798 and 1809, the customs enforced the various embargo and non-intercourse laws, issued regulatory documentation, and initiated libel action against violators. The Marine Hospital, providing care for sick or disabled seamen, was founded in 1798, and the customs officials were delegated to collect hospital fees from vessels arriving at their port. After 1819, customs districts were required to collect the passenger lists of all vessels arriving from foreign ports. Other responsibilities included holding imported goods in bonded warehouses until the duty was paid (1846); keeping official records on the sale of vessels (1850); and regulating steamship commerce and safety.

By 1860, the increasing complexity of regulating maritime commerce had made the customs service a large agency, responsible for nearly one half of the revenue taken in by the Federal government.

The collection is representative of various customs service documents and certificates issued by port officials in the United States and overseas. It offers researchers a better understanding of what the customs service did during this period of maritime history and what documents were required for the lawful conduct of maritime business in Maine

Citation: Stein, Douglas L. *American maritime documents 1776-1860*. Connecticut: Mystic Seaport Museum, 1992.

Scope and Content Notes

The Applebee collection is a small example of Maine Maritime Historical documents (76 items). All vessels are from the Port of Bath that have voyaged to various American and foreign ports. The custom house documents are provided to various ports of destination or by or to the Customs Office at the port and consist of various Consuls' papers, manifests, crew lists, articles of agreement, permits and certifications. This is a small yet excellent example of documents representing early maritime history in Maine.

Processing Notes

The papers were already loosely organized. Looking at the collection, it appeared as if items may have been group together based on their accession number (i.e. Enrollments and Registers, acc. nos.

66.1461 & 66.1462). The bulk of the papers came in 1965 (acc. no. 65.0674), with additional papers (enrollment and registers) donated in 1966 (acc# 66.1461 and 66.1462) and a single item (receipt from Consulate, *Neutrality* (brig) donated sometime after (acc. no. 66.1621). The collection contains 76 documents that have been sorted based on their function and/or purpose.

Crew lists/crew-related documents and clearance certificates (Series I and II) are organized chronologically. Cargo and freight documents are organized alphabetically by vessel name. Enrollments and registers are organized in chronological order by their "date of surrender". Miscellaneous documents are listed in chronological order. I have added a cross-reference index at the end of the finding aid which should help direct researchers to specific vessels and names of captains.

Organization and Description of Collection

Crew Lists and crew related documents *(17 items • 1820-71)*: Crew lists are considered a formal document and are part of the ship's papers which were presented to the customs collector along with other ship papers. Two of the lists are blank.
Clearance Certificates *(3 items - 1824-27)*: Clearance certificates give vessels permission to travel to foreign ports.
Cargo and Freight *(27 items • n.d., 1821- 83)*: This group of documents pertains to the vessel's cargo and includes certified manifests, bill of lading, and declaration of goods and transportation of merchandise. Information in these documents includes such information the numbers of packages and their identifying marks, value, the names of the shippers and consignees, ports of destination, etc.
Enrollments and Registers *(22 items • 1836-37)*: Whenever any significant event occurred in a vessel's ownership or description, she was required to obtain a certificate of enrollment or registry. Certificates of enrollment were used for vessels engaged solely in domestic trade, while certificates of registry could be obtained for vessels engaging on international trade. These enrollments and registers were all documented at Bath, Maine
Other Documents *(7 items • n.d., 1824-63)*: Various maritime documents such as a bill of sale, vessel license, certifying deposit of registers indicating receipt of the required ship's papers.

Cite: Stein, Douglas L. *American maritime documents 1776-1860*. Connecticut: Mystic Seaport Museum, 1992.

ROBERT B. APPLEBEE COLLECTION
Finding Aids

Box # Folder #

I. Crew Lists 1824-54

Box #	Folder #	
1	1	Articles of Agreement, *Retrieve* [schooner], Dec. 1824
	2	*North Star* (schooner), Account of names, Capt. Robert Crooker, 1824-5 Certification of Health, *North Star* (brig). *[Note: This may have been erroneously identified as a Brig. This could be the same* Schooner, *North Star*]

3 Crew Lists, *Charlotte Reed* (ship), February and March 1854

4 Crew Lists, various vessels, 1824-54

II. Clearance Papers 1824-27

5 *Worromontogus* (schooner), June 1824
Lydia (brigantine), Sept. 14, 1826
Spanish clearance papers, *Feron* (schooner), June 1827

III. Freight and Cargo (Manifests) n.d., 1821-63

6 *Eliza* (brig), Capt. Drummond, 1825
7 *Nancy & Mary* (schooner), Capt. Charles Theobald, 1821
8 *North Star* (schooner), Capt. Robert Crooker, 1824-25
9 *Savannah* (schooner), Capt. William B. Gurney, 1838
10 *Worromontogus* (schooner), Capt. Ammi Morgan, 1824
11 Manifests, various vessels, 1821-44
12 Note to take charge of cargo, n.d.
Bill of Lading with attached Declaration of Cargo, *Mary Russell* (ship), 1863

IV. Enrollments and Registers, 1836-37

13 Certificates of Enrollments, Nov. 1836-Sept. 1837
14 Certificates of Registers, Nov. 1836-Sept. 1837

V. Miscellaneous Documents, various vessels, 1806-71

15 Bill of Sale, *Jane Carlton* (Brig), Oct. 28, 1826
16 Certification of Deposit of Register, various vessels, 1824, ’28, ‘48, ‘71
17 Oath and/or affirmation, Capt. Samuel G. Stinson, Feb. 16, 1844
License, Coastal trade, 20 tons, Capt. Joseph H. Vigoureux, Sept. 17, 1844

Appendix A
Cross-Reference Index of Vessel Name and Corresponding Folder(s)

VESSEL NAME	TYPE	FOLDER #
Amoriel	Schooner	13
Assyria	Ship	16
Azora	Schooner	13
Banner	Schooner	11
Charlotte Reed	Ship	3
Climax	Schooner	13
Cuba	Bark	14
Cybele	Ship	16
Delta	Schooner	13
Detroit	Bark	4
Dollar *	Schooner	11
Dunlap	Brig	4
Eliza	Brig	6
Esther	Schooner	14
Evelina	Schooner	11, 17
Farmer	Schooner	11
Feron *	Schooner	5
Fortune	Brig	11
Franklin	Brig	4
Gardiner	Schooner	13
Glenroy	Brigantine	4

VESSEL NAME	TYPE	FOLDER #
Hannah & Martha	Schooner	12
Hanover	Schooner	11
Henry	Brig	13
Jane Carlton	Brig	15
John	Brig	4
John Gilman *	Schooner	11
Lafayette	Schooner	14
Leopard	Brig	4
Lydia	Brig	4
Lydia	Brigantine	5
Lydia	Schooner	11
Margaret	Brig	14
Margaret	Schooner	13
Mary	Schooner	17
Mary Maria	Ship	14
Mary Russell	Ship	12
Mechanic	Schooner	14
Nancy & Mary	Schooner	7
Neutrality	Brig	16
Nile	Brig	13
North America	Ship	14
North Star	Schooner	2, 8
Octavia	Schooner	13

VESSEL NAME	TYPE	FOLDER #
Ohio	Brig	11
Olive	Schooner	11
Oscar	Schooner	13
Ralph	Brig	13
Retrieve	Schooner	1, 11
Rhine	Schooner	13
Ruby	Schooner	4
Savannah	Schooner	9
Susan & Jane	Brig	4
Transit	Ship	11
Two Brothers	Schooner	16
Union	Schooner	11
Walter Scott	Ship	14
Waterville	Screw steamer, freight	14
William	Sloop	14
Worromontogus	Schooner	4, 5, 10

**** These are not Maine vessels***

Appendix B
Cross Reference Index of Captain's Name and Corresponding Folder(s)

NAME	FOLDER #
Anderson, H.	13
Bartlett, Erastus	13

NAME	FOLDER #
Blanchard, Samuel	14
Butler, Elisha L.	16
Child, Ambrose	16
Coffin, Geo. [George]	11
Cook, C. C.	14
Cooper, [L.]?	14
Crooker, Robert	2, 7, 16
Drummond, [Charles]?	6
Edgecombe, John	4
Elwell, Joseph S.	3
Filing, I.	14
Fulton, John	4
Given, V. [St. Vincent]?	14
Gurney, William B.	9
Haskell, William	4
Heath, Caleb	14
Henson, S. G.	11
Hopkins, Samuel	4
Johnson, [J. or I.]?	13
Lemont, J. W. [James Warren]	4, 5
McKinney, Joseph	11
Mayer, [S.]	13, 14
Melcher, [?]	11

NAME	FOLDER #
Morgan, Ammi	4, 5, 10
Nichols, S. [Samuel]	13
Patten, J. [Joseph] W.	16
Porter, Seward	14
Reed, Daniel	11
Sampson, H.	13
Sedgley, John	11
Simmons, Thomas	1
Smith, I. [Isaac]	13
Smith, J. [Joseph]	13
Snow, [Jspe / Jasper]?	4
Stinson, Huston	15
Stinson, Samuel G.	16
Stockbridge, Leavitt L.	11
Storer, David	14
Theobald, Charles	7
Theobald, F. R.	11
Thomson, E. P. H.	12
Trott, B. P.	13
Trott, I. [Isaac] C.	13
Veazie,Wm. [William] G.	11
Vigoureux, Joseph H.	15
Wallace, Moses	11

NAME	FOLDER #
Webb, [?]	11
Wilcox, Ephraim	4
Williams, A.	13
Winchell, Ebenezer	4
Woodward, [?]	11
Woodward, [G or I.]?	13